



Subject	<b>English Literature</b>	
Title/Topic	Format	Length
Paper 1 – Paper 1A Literary genres: Aspects of tragedy	Section A- Extract response Section B Whole text Question Section C- The Great Gatsby and Richard II	2.5 hours

### In this assessment the topics I will be assessed on are...

#### King Lear

##### Paper 1 Section A. Extract specific: 45mins

1. Write about the extract! You would not believe how many students don't. Yes, you have to make references to the wider play but only things that highlight something interesting within the extract. The vast majority of your writing should be about the extract.
2. Think about it as a dramatic moment. There will be some dramatic method in there. In the 2017 paper, Othello holds Desdemona's hand for example, but it was an implied stage direction not one in italics so lots of students didn't spot it. You need to look out for these too, and they aren't hard to spot. Where are the lines that tell you that a character is doing something physical? Remember this is a drama not a novel – write about **action** not punctuation!
3. AQA have repeatedly told us that the best way to start this response is by pinning down the dramatic arc of the extract. ie what happens during the extract. Your opening paragraph should do this and state briefly why this is a significant moment. Good questions to ask yourself are what has happened that led up to this and what happens as a result of this? Answering these while thinking about the dramatic arc of the extract will help you focus on the extract and address significance and structure.

##### Paper 1 Section B: Whole text question 45mins

1. Don't overcomplicate the question. If it asks about Lear's weaknesses, then write about his weaknesses. Don't think if you just do that you are somehow missing a trick. You aren't. Back to the mantra. Read the question, answer the question.
2. Plan your answer before you start writing and then prioritise points. Start with the ones that most simply and directly respond to the question – again in a question on Lear's weaknesses, start with his ego and pride, not a more obscure idea of yours. By all means write that if you think it and can support it, but don't start with it, finish with it. That way, if you run out of time, you have covered the bits of the text that are most applicable and can ratchet up marks, not the bits that might take a while to explain and could tie you up in knots.



3. Be analytical not anecdotal. I.e, pin everything you say down in specifics within the text (remember this doesn't have to be precise quotations).
4. ANSWER THE QUESTION (yep, I know I've said this before..)

### **Paper 1 Section C- 45min**

#### **In this assessment, you will need to write about The Great Gatsby and Richard II**

1. As above in terms of focus, planning and prioritising- you have 45 mins for this essay
2. Make sure you **engage in the debate of the question**. Do this by clearly linking to the statement by using its language (Ultimately, Gatsby's tragic flaw is his obsession with the past) and don't just agree or disagree – think about both sides!
3. Make clear links to the tragic genre – this might be easier with Shakespeare, but it is still vitally important in Section C
4. Follow a clear written structure – remember, Q is the centre!
5. Pick a few key points for the text, that is all you can do successfully in the time you have. If you try to make too many points you will 'list' ideas which means they can't be thorough which is a band 4 key descriptor.

### **What should I do to revise and prepare for this assessment?**

To prepare for this assessment:

Use the booklets Mrs Catchpole and Miss Moran have given to you all- copies of these can be located on Satchel.

In addition, you can:

1. Watch a production of King Lear
2. Practise analysing extracts and identifying where they are from in the story.
3. Use Massolit to make notes on key scenes
4. Use Massolit to revise knowledge of The Great Gatsby
5. Read Crossref lit to make additional annotations on key scenes
6. Make plans for sample section 2 questions
7. Respond to past Great Gatsby papers
8. Read the above advice about how to succeed on each section of the paper.
9. Explode key quotations from the text- who says them? Why? How?



**What useful websites/resources could I use to help me prepare?**

Massolit

<https://crossref-it.info/textguide/king-lear/39/0>

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/sovereignty-and-subversion-in-king-lear>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/lear-in-lockdown-studying-king-lear/id1557703409>